any strategy to provide gainful employment to the employable by the end of the century; and

(b) if so, the details of the strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). The Eighth Plan envisages a strategy for achieving the goal of near full employment situation in the country as a whole by the year 2002. The goal is sought to be achieved by accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities on the basis of faster growth of employment-intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities such as agriculture, agro and rural industries, rural infrastructure, small and decentralised manufacturing sector, urban informal sector and services. New Schemes like Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), have been introduced in the Eighth Plan period besides continuing the on-going schemes like IRDP, JRY and NRY. These schemes and strategies will be reviewed for the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

LPG Cylinder

2278. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the per kilogram price of the LPG consumer gas cylinder and commercial gas cylinder separately and the quantity of gas in each cylinder;

(b) whether there is any established system to ensure the weight and minimum price of the gas cylinder being supplied by the private gas agencies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The ex-storage point per kg. of domestic and commercial LPG excluding excise duty and local levies are Rs. 6.90 and Rs. 13.90 respectively. The quantity of LPG in domestic cylinder is 14.2 kgs and in commercial cylinder is 19 kgs.

(b) and (c). Under the parallel marketing scheme, the private parties have to conform to the provisions of the amended LPG Control Order of August, 93, the applicable provisions of Gas Cylinders Rules, 1981 and the Weights and Measures Act. However, parallel marketeers have been allowed to market LPG at market determined prices.

[English]

Supply of Power to U.P.

2279. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.is reluctant to supply power to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Power to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board was regulated by Powergrid from 14.5.1996 to 14.6.1996, on account of non payment of outstanding dues of POWERGRID by UPSEB. The supply was restored soon after a part payment was made by UPSEB and a commitment given to pay the balance amount soon.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Kahalgaon Power Project in Bihar

2280. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NTPC has acquired land for its Kahalgaon Power Project in Distt. Bhagalpur of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision to employ the dependents of land oustees in those projects for which the land has been acquired; and

(d) if so, the number of land oustees and the number of people employed in this project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Bihar Government has acquired land for the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation.

(b) A total of 3123.915 acres of land was acquired in Bhagalpur District and 233.550 acres of land in District Godda.

(c) Subject to requirement/vacancies and suitability, preferences is given to Project Affected Persons in recruitment.

(d) The total number of land oustees is 3587 out of which 300 land oustees/their nominee has been employed in the project.

[English]

Acute Shortage of LPG

2281. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute

shortage of LPG in Maharashtra and particularly at Nagpur;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been contemplated by the Government to meet the shortage of LPG;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to take steps to enhance the production of Natural Gas in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). The demand and the existing consumers of LPG in the State of Maharashtra, who are enrolled with the distributors of public sector oil companies, is by and large being met in full. Temporary backlogs that may arise are cleared by augmenting LPG supplies through operation of bottling plants for extended hours and on holidays and by arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas.

(d) and (e). The current production of natural gas of around 63 MMSCMD is likely to increase to 84 MMSCMD BY 2001-02 through development of new gas fields and additional development of some of the existing gas fields.

Transmission through Electronic Media

2282. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CSIR in collaboration with a HEAD Project of Canada has developed a programme of collection and transmission of information through electronic media; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Publications and Information Directorate (now renamed as National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), a constituent unit of CSIR, is participating as lead organisation in AHEAD (acronym for Asian Health, Environemental and Allied Databases). AHEAD is an international consortium of eight Asian Institutions spread over six Asian countries engaged in dissemination of information on Environment, Health and Natural Products pertaining to the Asian region in the form of CD ROMs. It is envisaged to release three CD ROM Disks every six months. The Project is at present funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

Sale of Bitumen

2283. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation sells bitumen to State Government's agencies at concessional rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the alleged sale of bitumen by the Indian Oil Corporation, Calcutta against irregular allotment orders in the names of different agencies of Government of Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officials of the Indian Oil Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) does not sell bitumen to State Governments' agencies at a concessional rate.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Based on press reports, regarding alleged bitumen scandal in Bihar, IOC has started internal enquiry in the matter.

Sanitation Problem

2284. SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the magnitude of the problem of sanitation in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the funds required to solve this problem; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Attached Statement I and II indicate the State/UT-wise population, covered with sanitation facilities in urban and rural areas respectively. The balance population, i.e. 49.74% in urban areas and 81.53% in rural areas in the country do not have the facility.

(b) and (c). A group was set up by the Government with Secretary (Health) as Convenor in 1994 to develop a Comprehensive National Programme on Sanitation and Environmental Hygiene. The Group has made detailed estimate of the overall development requirement upto 2025 AD. These are to be examined before a final view is taken on this issue.